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The lines in this star's spectrum are rather broad, and cannot be measured very accurately. In addition, the third plate was underexposed; and the range of five kilometers in the approximate results for the first three plates afforded only a slight suspicion of variability. Its reality was established from the fourth plate.

η *Andromedæ* ($\alpha = 0^h\ 52^m$; $\delta = +22° 52'$).

Two components seem to be visible in the spectrograms of this star. The results for the principal components are:—

Date.		Velocity.
1899	Oct. 24	-25^{km}
	Oct. 31	-26
1900	July 24	-12
	Aug. 8	$+2$
	Sept. 9	-2

The two component spectra appear to be practically coincident in the spectrogram of 1900, July 24th.

Mr. WRIGHT was in charge of the work with the Mills spectrograph during my connection with the Crocker Eclipse Expedition to Georgia, from March to late in July. While following the regular programme of observation, he detected the variable velocities of the stars ξ *Ursæ majoris*, *d Boötis*, β *Scuti*, *113 Herculis*, and *2 Scuti*, as described above; and the credit for these five discoveries belongs to him. W. W. CAMPBELL.

SOLAR PARALLAX OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Observations of the planet *Eros* and of reference-stars, for determining the solar parallax, have been secured at the Lick Observatory, as follows:—

Astronomer R. H. TUCKER, assisted by Mr. R. T. CRAWFORD, Fellow in Astronomy, obtained two meridian-circle observations of each of the 319 reference-stars forming the first list in the Bulletin (No. 4) of the Conférence Astrophotographique Internationale. There have been made 1,100 observations in completing this list, including fundamental and circumpolar stars and nadirs. The reductions were completed, and the manuscript giving the results was ready for the printer, on December 21, 1900.

Mr. TUCKER has secured two observations of each of the 352 stars forming the second Conférence list. The completion of the second list has required about one thousand observations. The observations are all reduced to apparent place, and the mean-place reductions alone remain to be made. Mr. Crawford assisted on the first one-fifth of the programme.

Astronomer W. J. Hussey secured micrometer-measures of *Eros* with the 36-inch refractor, on eleven nights, from October 25th to December 12th. Forty-four complete observations were secured at large hour-angles east of the meridian, and fifty-five at large hour-angles west. One observation is composed of

4 micrometer-differences in Declination,
8 " " in Right Ascension,
4 " " in Declination,
involving sixteen micrometer-settings.

Assistant Astronomer R. G. Aitken obtained micrometer-measures of the planet with the 36-inch refractor on fifteen nights between October 21st and January 1st. He obtained forty-one complete observations at large eastern hour-angles, and forty-two at large western. Each observation is composed of

3 micrometer-differences in Declination,
10 " " in Right Ascension,
3 " " in Declination,
10 " " in Right Ascension,
3 " " in Declination,
involving twenty-nine micrometer-settings.

With the Crossley reflector, Assistant Astronomer C. D. Perrine, assisted by H. K. Palmer, Fellow in Astronomy, secured meridian-observations of *Eros* on sixty-one nights, between September 16th and January 18th. These are photographic, on 332 plates, five sets of images on each plate. Three hundred plates for parallax were obtained at large eastern hour-angles on thirty-four nights, and 220 plates at large western hour-angles on twenty-six nights. Many of the images on these plates are poor, and unavoidably so, on account of the defective mounting of the telescope. The great majority, however, are excellent, and only the best will be needed for measurement. Arrangements for measuring the plates, made with Professor Rees, Director of Columbia University Observatory, referred to in the last number of these *Publications*, leave no doubt that all the merits of these photographs will be utilized. No department of Astronomy is more promising, or is developing more rapidly, than that relating to the accurate determinations of star-positions from photographic plates. Columbia University Observatory has had a very extensive experience in this field, and is the only institution in this country with equipment and organization suitable for doing this work on a large scale.

Since the middle of December, the nights suitable for making *Eros* observations have been unusually few, even for winter months.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

1901, January 30.

A GIFT TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The Committee of the National Academy of Sciences in charge of the Henry Draper Fund (for promoting research in astronomical physics) have made a grant of five hundred dollars to the Lick Observatory, to provide lenses, prisms, slit, materials, etc., for the construction of a thoroughly modern one-prism spectrograph.

The spectrographic work on faint spectra at this Observatory was done for several years with the original visual spectroscope, provided with photographic lenses. This was unsatisfactory, on account of the very large flexure effects during long exposures. Later, our one-prism spectrography has been done with a wooden-mounted instrument. The need of a first-class one-prism instrument has long been felt; and the generous gift from the Draper Fund will provide for its construction in the near future.

1901, January 30. W. W. CAMPBELL.

COMET NOTES.

Only three comets were discovered in the year 1900, all unexpected.

Comet *a* was discovered by M. GIACOBINI at Nice, on January 31, 1900. It was approaching the Sun rapidly when discovered, and in a few weeks was lost to observation, only reappearing on the other side of the Sun toward the end of May. The last observation made at this observatory was on July 22d. The comet's path was sensibly parabolic.

Comet *b* was discovered on July 23d by M. BORRELLY, at Marseilles, and independently by Dr. BROOKS, at Geneva, N. Y., a few hours later on the same night. It was a conspicuous object in a telescope of moderate aperture for several weeks, and